

03-15-05

22W RCE 3731

PTO/SB/30 (09-04)

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal

Address to:  
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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number	09/996,061
Filing Date	November 27, 2001
First Named Inventor	Schaldach, et al.
Art Unit	3731
Examiner Name	Michael H. Thaler
Attorney Docket Number	117163.00032

**This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.**  
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. **Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

a. ☒ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

i. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_

ii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

b. ☐ Enclosed

i. ☐ Amendment/Reply

iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/ Declaration(s)

iv. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Miscellaneous**

a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)

b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Fees** The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to

a. ☐ Deposit Account No. 15-0450 I have enclosed a duplicate copy of this sheet.

i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e) 03/16/2005 HALI11 00000075 09996061

ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17) 01 FC:1801 790.00 OP

iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$ 790.00 enclosed

c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

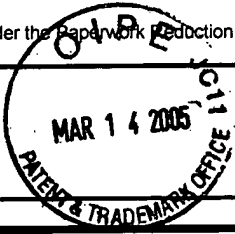
**WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.**

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED			
Signature	<i>John J. Cuniff</i>	Date	March 14, 2005
Name (Print/Type)	John J. Cuniff	Registration No.	42,451

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as <b>express</b> mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.			
Signature	<i>Cheryl A. Martin</i>	Date	March 14, 2005
Name (Print/Type)	Cheryl A. Martin		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.



## Instruction Sheet for RCEs

(not to be submitted to the USPTO)

### NOTES:

An RCE is not a new application, and filing an RCE will not result in an application being accorded a new filing date.

#### **Filing Qualifications:**

The application must be a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995. The application cannot be a provisional application, a utility or plant application filed before June 8, 1995, a design application, or a patent under reexamination. See 37 CFR 1.114(e).

#### **Filing Requirements:**

***Prosecution in the application must be closed.*** Prosecution is closed if the application is under appeal, or the last Office action is a final action, a notice of allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (e.g., an Office action under *Ex parte Quayle*). See 37 CFR 1.114(b).

***A submission and a fee are required at the time the RCE is filed.*** If reply to an Office action under 35 U.S.C. 132 is outstanding (e.g., the application is under final rejection), the submission must meet the reply requirements of 37 CFR 1.111. If there is no outstanding Office action, the submission can be an information disclosure statement, an amendment, new arguments, or new evidence. See 37 CFR 1.114(c). The submission may be a previously filed amendment (e.g., an amendment after final rejection).

### WARNINGS:

#### **Request for Suspension of Action:**

All RCE filing requirements must be met before suspension of action is granted. A request for a suspension of action under 37 CFR 1.103(c) does not satisfy the submission requirement and does not permit the filing of the required submission to be suspended.

#### **Improper RCE will NOT toll Any Time Period:**

***Before Appeal*** - If the RCE is improper (e.g., prosecution in the application is not closed or the submission or fee has not been filed) and the application is not under appeal, the time period set forth in the last Office action will continue to run and the application will be abandoned after the statutory time period has expired if a reply to the Office action is not timely filed. No additional time will be given to correct the improper RCE.

***Under Appeal*** - If the RCE is improper (e.g., the submission or the fee has not been filed) and the application is under appeal, the improper RCE is effective to withdraw the appeal. Withdrawal of the appeal results in the allowance or abandonment of the application depending on the status of the claims. If there are no allowed claims, the application is abandoned. If there is at least one allowed claim, the application will be passed to issue on the allowed claim(s). See MPEP 1215.01.

**See MPEP 706.07(h) for further information on the RCE practice.**



Practitioner's Docket No. 117163.00023

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: Schaldach, et al.

Application No.: 09/996,061

Group No.: 3731

Filed: November 27, 2001

Examiner: Michael H. Thaler

For: STENT INCLUDING HUMAN OR ANIMAL TISSUE

**Mail Stop RCE**

**Commissioner for Patents**

**P.O. Box 1450**

**Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
(37 C.F.R. § 1.114)**

1. Applicant hereby requests continued examination, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, for the above identified application.

**TIME REQUEST IS BEING MADE**

2. This request is being submitted:

- i. Prior to abandonment of the application

**ENCLOSURES**

3. Enclosed herewith is:

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**CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.8(a) and 1.10\***

*(When using Express Mail, the Express Mail label number is mandatory;  
Express Mail certification is optional.)*

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being:

**MAILING**

☐ deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

**37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)**

☐ with sufficient postage as first class mail.

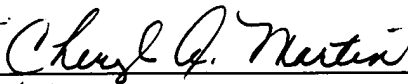
**37 C.F.R. § 1.10\***

☒ as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee"

Mailing Label No. **EV 517381491 US** (mandatory)

**TRANSMISSION**

☐ facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office, (703) \_\_\_\_\_

  
Signature

Date: March 14, 2005

Cheryl A. Martin

\_\_\_\_\_  
(type or print name of person certifying)

\* Only the date of filing (37 C.F.R. § 1.6) will be the date used in a patent term adjustment calculation, although the date on any certificate of mailing or transmission under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 continues to be taken into account in determining timeliness. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.703(f). Consider "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" (37 C.F.R. § 1.10) or facsimile transmission (37 C.F.R. § 1.6(d)) for the reply to be accorded the earliest possible filing date for patent term adjustment calculations.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal.  
Check in the amount of \$790.00  
Return Card

**FEE FOR REQUEST (37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)).**

4. This application is on behalf of other than small entity.

Continued Prosecution Request Fee: 790.00

**FEE FOR CLAIMS**

5. The fee for claims (37 C.F.R. § 1.16(b)-(d)) has been calculated as shown below:

	(Col.1)	(Col. 2)	(Col. 3)	OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY			
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDIT. FEE		
TOTAL	27	– 27	= 0	x \$ 50.00	= \$		0.00
INDEP.	1	– 3	= 0	x \$ 200.00	= \$		0.00
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEP. CLAIM				+ \$ 360.00	= \$		0.00
TOTAL ADDIT. FEE					\$		0.00

No additional fee for claims is required.

**EXTENSION OF TIME**

6. The proceedings herein are for a patent application, and the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) apply.

Applicant believes that no extension of time is required. However, this is a conditional petition and authorization to pay the necessary fees to provide for the possibility that applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition and fee for extension of time.

A Response after Final Office Action was due on March 13, 2005, a Sunday. Therefore, this paper is timely filed on the following business day, March 14, 2005

**TOTAL FEE(S) DUE**

7. The total fee(s) due is/are:

Continued Prosecution Fee (Section 1.17(e))	\$790.00
Fee(s) for additional claims (Section 1.16(b)-(d))	\$0.00

Total Fee(s) Due:	\$790.00
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#### **PAYMENT OF FEE(S) DUE**

8. Please pay the fee(s) for this continued examination application as follows:

Check is attached for the sum of \$790.00.

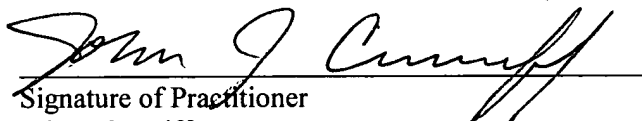
Please charge any required additional fee(s) for § 1.17(e), § 1.16(b)-(d) and/or § 1.17(a)(1)-(4) to Account 15-0450.

#### **INVENTORSHIP**

9. This application as amended names as inventors the same inventors as previously designated for the claims.

Date: 14 March 2005

Reg. No.: 42,451  
Tel. No.: 330-864-5550  
Customer No.: 021324

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Practitioner  
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